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Thematic discussion: strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth including through equitable macroeconomic policies

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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

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Statement

1. It is the mission of The MPTF to support/empower people marginalized by poverty, capacity deprivation, gender biases and disabilities- with focus on *equity, justice, right to healthy sustainable living, health care, and food security.* We mobilize the necessary resources for inclusive development--with priorities to enable the poor to participate in, and benefit from development and to develop the capacity of the local actors to manage pro-poor sustained economic growth in India.

2. The MPTF objectives are: A) To increase stakeholders' awareness of Micro-finance integral to the *development equation:* B) To assess & promote contribution of Micro-credit to *MDGs:* C) To encourage new partnerships-by promoting women's economic participation, *gender equity and household well-being.*

3. As per Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "*Together, we can and must build inclusive financial sectors that help people improve their lives*". The central question pertaining to the HLS as clearly articulated in "Year of Micro-credit 2005" asks: What are the prudent actions that the global community can undertake to dramatically increase financial service access, and thus ensure that micro-credit and micro-finance can be used most effectively to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the M.D. Declaration?

4. To that effect The MPTF (aegis) has engaged in networking/consultations with the NGOs in India, as well as, organized meetings/workshops to focus on the HLS agenda. The active network involves 10-12 NGOs; more are being incorporated-in the United States of America/India in our *Human Rights Based Pro-Poor Agenda.* Some key recommendations, to advance pro-poor economic sustainability are: A) Encourage *innovation and multi-level* partnerships with public, private and NGO sectors, B) Support sustainable access & promotion of *inclusive financial systems*, C) *Influence, promote* & help access equitable macro-economic policies/outcomes, and D) Promote *People's Banking Concepts* at the grass-root level through self-help-group (SHG) formations, E) Promote development approach to the *human rights* agenda; its interplay with the MDGs. Some of the good practices of our partner NGOs involve integration of pro-poor activities such as SHG (s), Food Security/ Income Generation Activities, Health care/ Education-- with strong participatory involvement by the poor stakeholders—Training & Capacity Building being essential part of the total approach.

5. The MPTF along with its network and partner NGOs has followed through on the relevant issues, and is in the process of setting up a Micro-credit Fund- to issue grants/loans to capacity deprived, poor people to support pro-poor economic growth in urban/rural state of West Bengal. We are looking at various options in terms of our strategies and plans for pro-poor outcomes.